

Message Text

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63

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 EB-03 L-02 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 INRE-00 PM-03 DODE-00 PRS-01

OMB-01 COME-00 TRSE-00 INT-01 CIEP-01 SSO-00 DRC-01

/056 W

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O 112035Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0937

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 2825

FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, EMIN, EIND, DR

SUBJECT: BAUXITE NEGOTIATIONS WITH ALCOA

REF : STATE 148927

1. APPRECIATE INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED REFTEL.

2. SINCE FIRST INDICATIONS GODR SEEKING REVISE ALCOA CONTRACT, WE HAVE BEEN IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH ALCOA REP HUGHSON WITH STANDING OFFER TO BE OF WHATEVER ASSISTANCE WE COULD APPROPRIATELY PROVIDE. IN DISCUSSING SITUATION WITH HUGHSON THIS MORNING, WE AGREED WE HAD ONLY SO MUCH AMMUNITION WHICH WE OUGHT TO HUSBAND. ACCORDINGLY, HUGHSON WILL SEEK APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT BALAGUER (WHOM HE HAS KNOWN WELL FOR PAST FIFTEEN YEARS) FOR EITHER TODAY OR TOMORROW AND LET ME KNOW RESULTS OF HIS EFFORTS. IF HUGHSON THINKS SUBSEQUENT DEMARCH ON MY PART BEFORE SECOND AND FINAL READING OF PROPOSED LAW ON JULY 16 WOULD ASSIST HIS CAUSE I AGREED TO CONSIDER IT.

3. COMMENT: I WOULD PREFER TO SEE ALCOA AND THE GODR SETTLE THIS DIRECTLY BUT AM QUITE PREPARED TO TALK TO PRESIDENT
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BALAGUER. BALAGUER IS PROBABLY MOTIVATED BY THREE CONSIDERATIONS:

(1) NEED FOR GREATER INCOME TO PAY HIS INCREASED PETROLEUM
BILLS (ONE HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARY); (2) DOMESTIC POLITICAL
CONSIDERATIONS TO DEMONSTRATE TO NATIONALISTS AND OTHERS
THAT HE CAN "HANDLE" POWERFUL MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS; AND
(3) SOME NEED TO CREATE AN IMAGE DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF PARAGUAY
AND NICARAGUA WITH WHICH THE DOMREP IS OFTEN IDENTIFIED BY
POLITICAL SIMPLETONS AND WHICH MAKES BALAGUER UNCOMFORTABLE (HE
FANCIES HIMSELF AS A SOCIAL REFORMER). BY ASSOCIATING THE
DOMREP WITH THE BAUXITE PRODUCERS, HE PROBABLY FEELS HE WOULD
FIND HIMSELF IN MORE "LIBERAL" COMPANY.
HURWITCH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BAUXITE, INSTRUCTIONS, DEMARCHE, MINING INDUSTRY, NEGOTIATIONS, BUSINESS FIRMS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: martinml
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SANTO02825
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740185-0893
From: SANTO DOMINGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740757/aaaabwxk.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 148927
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinml
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <19 FEB 2003 by martinml>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BAUXITE NEGOTIATIONS WITH ALCOA
TAGS: EFIN, EMIN, EIND, DR, ALCOA, (HUGHSON)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005